



# Australian Bureau of Statistics

## 6222.0 - Job Search Experience, Australia, Jul 2010

Previous ISSUE Released at 11:30 AM (CANBERRA TIME) 18/01/2011

## Summary

## Main Features

### NOTES

### ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication presents information about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, in terms of the steps they have taken to find work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents information about employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. For this group, data on the steps taken to attain work and current job details are provided. In addition, demographic information is provided for both of these groups.

The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2010 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS).

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

In this publication, 'Job Network' has been changed to 'Job Services Australia' following organisational changes to Government job search facilities in July 2009.

### ROUNDING

As estimates have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

### INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Labour Market Statistics Section on Canberra (02) 6252 7206, <[labour.statistics@abs.gov.au](mailto:labour.statistics@abs.gov.au)>.

## Summary Of Findings

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **OVERVIEW**

In July 2010, there were 578,700 people (307,200 men and 271,500 women) who were unemployed. Of these:

- 80% of unemployed men were looking for full-time work;
- 38% of unemployed women were looking for part-time work;
- 39% were aged between 15 and 24 years; and
- 23% were aged 45 years and over.

In July 2010, there were 1.4 million job starters (employed people who had started their current job in the previous 12 months). Of these:

- 58% searched for work for less than 1 year before starting current job;
- 66% were working full-time;
- 29% were aged between 25 and 34 years; and
- 20% were aged 45 years and over.

## **UNEMPLOYED PEOPLE**

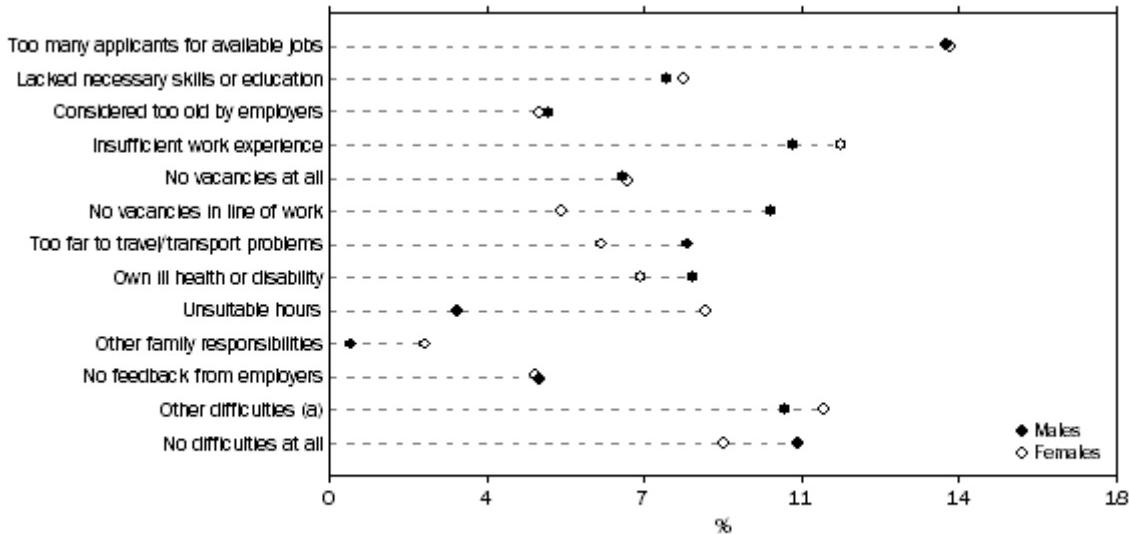
### **Duration of unemployment**

The majority (82%) of unemployed people had been unemployed for less than one year. The percentage of unemployed people who had been unemployed for one year or more increased from 16% in 2009 to 18% in 2010. The median duration of unemployment decreased from 16 weeks in July 2009 to 14 weeks in July 2010.

### **Difficulties in finding work**

In July 2010, the main difficulty in finding work for unemployed people was 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%), followed by 'insufficient work experience' (11%). Whereas, in July 2009, the most commonly reported main difficulties in finding work were 'too many applicants for available jobs' (15%) and 'no vacancies in line of work' (11%).

**UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Main difficulty in finding work - By sex**



(a) Includes people who reported 'considered too young by employers', 'language difficulties', 'difficulties with finding child care' or 'difficulties because of ethnic background'.

The difficulties in finding work for unemployed people varied with age, whether they were men or women, how long they have been unemployed and what type of work they were looking for (full-time or part-time).

The main difficulty for people aged 15-19 years was 'insufficient work experience' (19%) whereas, the main difficulty in finding work for people aged 45 years and over was 'considered too old by employers' (17%).

For unemployed men the most commonly reported main difficulties in finding work were:

- 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%);
- 'insufficient work experience' (11%); and
- 'no vacancies in line of work' (10%).

For unemployed women the most commonly reported main difficulties in finding work were:

- 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%);
- 'insufficient work experience' (12%); and
- 'unsuitable hours' (9%).

For long-term unemployed people the most commonly reported main difficulties were:

- 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%);
- 'too far to travel/transport problems' and 'own ill-health or disability' (13% each).

For people who had been unemployed for less than 1 year the most commonly reported main difficulties were:

- 'too many applicants for available jobs' (14%); and
- 'insufficient work experience' (11%); and
- 'no vacancies in line of work' (9%).

There were 57,600 unemployed people who reported that they had 'no difficulties at all' in

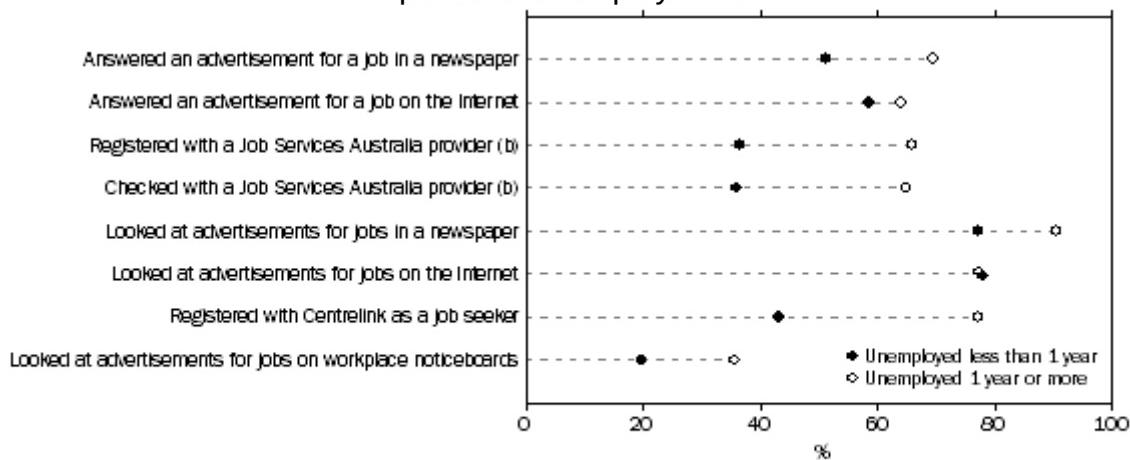
finding work. Of those reporting no difficulties, 74% had been unemployed for less than eight weeks.

## All steps taken to find work

In July 2010, the percentage of people looking for full-time work decreased to 72% of unemployed people, from 75% in 2009. The most common steps taken to find work (both full-time and part-time) reported by unemployed people were:

- 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (85%);
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper' (80%);
- 'looked at advertisements on the Internet' (78%); and
- 'answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet' (60%).

**UNEMPLOYED PERSONS, Selected steps taken to find work(a) - By duration of current period of unemployment**



(a) Refers to all steps taken to find work, therefore people may appear in more than one category.

(b) See paragraph 21 of the Explanatory Notes for more information.

For steps taken to find work, the largest percentage point difference between long-term unemployed people and those who had been unemployed for less than 1 year were:

- 'registered with Centrelink as a job seeker' (77% and 43% respectively);
- 'registered with a Job Services Australia provider' (66% and 36% respectively); and
- 'answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper' (69% and 51% respectively).

## Older and younger unemployed

In July 2010, 39% (223,500) of unemployed people were aged 15-24 years compared to 23% (133,900) of unemployed people who were aged 45 years and over.

The most common steps taken to find work reported by those aged 15-24 years were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (79%) and 'looked at advertisements for a job on the Internet' (77%). Whereas the most common steps reported by those aged 45 years and over were 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' and 'looked at advertisements for a job in the newspaper' (86% each).

## ALL JOB STARTERS

In July 2010 there were 1.4 million job starters (employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months). Of these:

- 93% were employees;
- 36% usually worked part-time hours, of whom 37% preferred to work more hours;
- 61% were aged 15-34 years;
- 6% were aged 55 years and over;
- 59% had a non-school qualification;
- 58% looked for work for less than 1 year before attaining their current job (of whom 42% looked for work for between 1 and 13 weeks);
- 5% looked for work for 1 year or more; and
- 38% did not look for work.

## **EMPLOYEE<sup>1</sup> JOB STARTERS**

In July 2010 there were 1.3 million employee<sup>1</sup> job starters, of whom 43% did not have paid leave entitlements in their current job. Of those without leave entitlements:

- 44% were aged 15-24 years;
- 16% were aged 45 and over; and
- 55% were women.

The majority (90%) of employee<sup>1</sup> job starters had worked before. Of these:

- 61% had changed employer to start their current job;
- 39% were out of work prior to starting their current job; and
- 30% were aged 25-34.

## **All steps taken to attain a job**

Of employee<sup>1</sup> job starters, the most commonly reported step to attain a job was 'wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work' (58%). For the steps taken to attain a job, the largest percentage point difference between those who had worked before and first job holders were:

- 'contacted friends or relatives' (32% and 39% respectively);
- 'registered with other employment agency' (12% and 5% respectively);
- 'looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet' (48% and 42% respectively); and
- 'looked at advertisement for jobs in the newspaper' (37% and 31% respectively).

## **END NOTE**

1. Excludes owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIEs) and contributing family workers.

## About this Release

Provides estimates of unemployed persons classified by difficulties in finding work, duration of current period of unemployment, active steps taken to find work, whether looking for full-time or part-time work, educational attainment, and number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months. Estimates can also be cross-classified by demographic information such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth.

Also provides estimates of employed persons who were formerly jobseekers but were now (as at the survey reference period) employed and were successful in securing that job in the previous 12 months. Estimates can also be cross-classified by demographic information such as state, sex, age, marital status and country of birth.

## Explanatory Notes

### Explanatory Notes

#### EXPLANATORY NOTES

##### INTRODUCTION

**1** The statistics in this publication were compiled from data collected in the Job Search Experience Survey, conducted throughout Australia in July 2010 as a supplement to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) monthly Labour Force Survey (LFS). Respondents to the LFS who fell within the scope of the supplementary survey were asked further questions.

**2** The publication [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0) contains information about survey design, sample redesign, scope, coverage and population benchmarks relevant to the monthly LFS, which also apply to supplementary surveys. It also contains definitions of demographic and labour force characteristics, and information about telephone interviewing which are relevant to both the monthly LFS and supplementary surveys.

##### CONCEPTS, SOURCES AND METHODS

**3** The conceptual framework used in Australia's LFS aligns closely with the standards and guidelines set out in Resolutions of the International Conference of Labour Statisticians. Descriptions of the underlying concepts and structure of Australia's labour force statistics, and the sources and methods used in compiling these estimates, are presented in [Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods](#) (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

##### SCOPE

**4** The scope of the LFS is restricted to people aged 15 years and over and excludes the following people:

- members of the permanent defence forces;
- certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from the census and estimated populations;

- overseas residents in Australia; and
- members of non-Australian defence forces (and their dependants).

**5** Students at boarding schools, patients in hospitals, residents of homes (e.g. retirement homes, homes for people with disabilities), and inmates of prisons are excluded from all supplementary surveys.

**6** This supplementary survey was conducted in both urban and rural areas in all states and territories, but excluded people living in Indigenous communities in very remote parts of Australia.

**7** The survey only relates to people who were unemployed in July 2010, and people employed in July 2010 who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## **COVERAGE**

**8** The estimates in this publication relate to people covered by the survey in July 2010. In the LFS, coverage rules are applied which aim to ensure that each person is associated with only one dwelling, and hence has only one chance of selection in the survey. See [Labour Force, Australia](#) (cat. no. 6202.0) for more details.

## **SAMPLE SIZE**

**9** Supplementary surveys are not always conducted on the full LFS sample. Since August 1994 the sample for supplementary surveys has been restricted to no more than seven-eighths of the LFS sample.

**10** The initial sample for the July 2010 LFS consisted of 36,117 private dwelling households and special dwelling units. Of the 28,778 private dwelling households and special dwelling units that remained in the survey after sample loss (e.g. households selected in the survey which had no residents in scope for the LFS, vacant or derelict dwellings and dwellings under construction), approximately 27,667 or 96.1% were fully responding to the Job Search Experience Survey. The number of completed interviews obtained from these private dwellings and special dwelling units (after taking into account scope, coverage and sub-sampling exclusions) was 5,239.

## **RELIABILITY OF THE ESTIMATES**

**11** Estimates in this publication are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors:

- Sampling error is the difference between the published estimate and the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. For more information see the Technical Note.
- Non-sampling errors are inaccuracies that occur because of imperfections in reporting by respondents and interviewers, and errors made in coding and processing data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and effective processing procedures.

## **SEASONAL FACTORS**

**12** The estimates are based on information collected in the survey month and, due to seasonal factors, may not be representative of other months of the year.

## **CLASSIFICATIONS USED**

**13** Country of birth data are classified according to the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), Second Edition (cat. no. 1269.0).

**14** Occupation data are classified according to ANZSCO - Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1 (cat. no. 1220.0).

**15** Industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

**16** Educational attainment data are classified according to the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0). See Appendix 1 for further information.

## **NOTES ON ESTIMATES**

**17** Employees are classified as 'with paid leave entitlements' if they said 'yes' to either of the following questions:

- 'Does your employer provide you with paid sick leave?'
  - 'Does your employer provide you with paid holiday leave?'
- In all other cases, employees are categorised as 'without paid leave entitlements'.

## **COMPARABILITY OF TIME SERIES**

**18** Revisions are made to population benchmarks for the LFS after each five-yearly Census of Population and Housing (Census). Estimates from the 2010 Job Search Experience Survey are based on the population benchmarks that take into account results from the 2006 Census, first published in the February 2009 issue of Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0). Labour supplementary surveys conducted from July 2010 include revised population benchmarks that incorporate revised Net Overseas Migration estimates, published in the September 2008 and September 2009 issues of Australian Demographic Statistics (cat. no. 3101.0). For details on population benchmarks, see Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0).

## **COMPARABILITY WITH MONTHLY LFS STATISTICS**

**19** Due to differences in the scope and sample size of this supplementary survey and that of the monthly LFS, the estimation procedure may lead to some small variations between labour force estimates from this survey and those from the LFS.

## **COMPARABILITY WITH PREVIOUS SURVEYS**

**20** From July 2004, a change has been made to the category 'considered too young or too old by employers' for the data items 'all difficulties in finding work' and 'main difficulty in finding work'. The category has been split into 'considered too young by employers' and 'considered too old by employers'. Data for 'considered too young by employers' is not published separately in all relevant tables, but are available on request.

**21** From July 2010, references to the Job Network have been replaced by Job Services Australia. This follows, organisational changes by the Australian Government which were implemented in July 2009. These changes affect the data items, 'All steps taken to find work/attain a job', 'All steps taken to find work', 'Active steps taken to find work', 'Active steps taken to find work and whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider', 'Whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider', 'All steps taken to attain a job', 'Whether had prior knowledge that current job was available', and 'Role of Job Services Australia in job attainment'.

**22** Also from July 2010, categories relating to Centrelink touchscreens have been removed from the data items, 'All steps taken to find work/attain a job', 'All steps taken to find work', 'Active steps taken to find work', 'Active steps taken to find work and whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider', 'Whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider', 'All steps taken to attain a job', and 'Whether had prior knowledge that current job was available'.

## PREVIOUS SURVEYS

**23** JSE was first conducted in July 2002. Results of similar surveys on the job search experience of unemployed people conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991, and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on people who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6245.0).

## NEXT SURVEY

**24** The ABS plans to conduct this survey again in July 2011.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**25** ABS publications draw extensively on information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the **Census and Statistics Act 1905**.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**26** ABS publications which may also be of interest include:

- Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0);

- Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6202.0);
- Labour Force Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6206.0);
- Labour Mobility, Australia (cat. no. 6209.0);
- Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001);
- Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia (cat. no. 6220.0); and
- Underemployed Workers, Australia (cat. no. 6265.0).

**27** Current publications and other products released by the ABS are available from the Statistics Page on the ABS website. The ABS also issues a daily Release Advice on the website which details products to be released in the week ahead.

## Glossary

### GLOSSARY

#### **Active steps taken to find work**

Active steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment include:

- wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work;
- answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper;
- answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet;
- answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards;
- contacted friends or relatives;
- advertised or tendered for work;
- registered with a Job Services Australia provider registered with other employment agency; and
- registered with Centrelink as a job seeker.

#### **All difficulties in finding work**

All difficulties in finding work experienced by unemployed people during the current period of unemployment.

#### **All steps taken to find work**

All steps taken by unemployed people in their search for work during the current period of unemployment.

#### **All steps taken to attain a job**

All steps taken to attain a job by people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. Refers to steps taken to attain a job, not necessarily the current job.

#### **Bachelor Degree or above**

Bachelor Degree or above includes qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level and Bachelor Degree level.

## **Centrelink**

Centrelink is a statutory authority responsible for delivering a range of Commonwealth Government services, including the registration of people for job search assistance and income support.

### **Certificate not further defined**

Survey responses are coded to Certificate not further defined (n.f.d.) when there is not enough information to code them to Certificate I, II, III or IV in the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED), 2001 (cat. no. 1272.0), Level of Education classification.

### **Contributing family workers**

People who work without pay in an economic enterprise operated by a relative.

### **Current job**

A job that a person is currently working in, has lasted, or is likely to last for a period of two weeks or more. For people who have commenced more than one job in the previous 12 months, it is the job most recently started.

### **Duration of current period of unemployment**

The period of time from when an unemployed person began looking for work, until the end of the reference week; or the period of time since an unemployed person last worked in any job for two weeks or more, until the end of the reference week; whichever was the shorter period. Brief periods of work (of less than two weeks) since the person began looking for work are disregarded.

### **Duration of looking for work before current job**

The number of weeks or years that employed people were looking for work before being offered their current job or starting their own business. For employed people who had worked before, it includes any time they were looking for work before leaving their previous employer.

### **Employed**

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or

- on strike or locked out; or
- on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## **Employee (excluding OMIEs) job starters**

People, excluding those who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without employees, who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind and started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## **Employees**

People who work for a public or private employer and receive remuneration in wages, salary, a retainer fee from their employer while working on a commission basis, tips, piece rates, or payment in kind, or people who operate their own incorporated enterprise with or without hiring employees.

## **Employers**

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engage independently in a profession or trade, and hire one or more employees.

## **Employment type in current job**

Classifies employed people according to the following categories on the basis of their current job:

- Employees (excluding OMIEs);
  - With paid leave entitlements;
  - Without paid leave entitlements;
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises;
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises; and
- Contributing family workers.

## **Employment type in main job**

For this survey, employment type in main job classifies employed people according to the following categories on the basis of their main job (that is, the job in which the most hours were usually worked):

- Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises OMIEs);
- Owner managers of incorporated enterprises;
- Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises; and
- Contributing family workers.

## **First job ever held lasting two weeks or more**

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had never worked for two weeks or more before starting their current job.

## **Full-time workers**

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs) and others who, although usually working less than 35 hours a week, worked 35 hours or more during the reference week.

## **Had worked before**

Refers to employees (excluding OMIEs) who had worked before and were either out of work or changed their employer before starting their current job.

## **Incorporated enterprise**

An enterprise which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company).

## **Industry**

An industry is a group of businesses or organisations that undertake similar economic activities to produce both goods and services. In this publication, industry refers to ANZSIC Division as classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).

## **Job Network/Job Services employment agency**

In July 2009, the Job Network was replaced by Job Services Australia. The Job Network/Job Services is a national network of private, community and government organisations on contract to the government to provide employment placement services to the community. Job seekers who are registered with Centrelink for job search assistance are able to contact a Job Services Australia provider in their area to receive this service.

## **Job starters**

Employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## **Left a job**

Unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and who left that job voluntarily.

## **Level of highest educational attainment**

Level of highest educational attainment identifies the highest achievement a person has attained in any area of study. It is not a measurement of the relative importance of different fields of study but a ranking of qualifications and other educational attainments regardless of the particular area of study or the type of institution in which the study was undertaken. See Appendix 1 for an explanation of how highest level is derived.

## **Level of highest non-school qualification**

Non-school qualifications are awarded for educational attainments other than those of pre-primary, primary or secondary education. They include qualifications at the Post Graduate Degree level, Master Degree level, Graduate Diploma and Graduate Certificate level, Bachelor Degree level, Advanced Diploma and Diploma level, and Certificates I, II, III and IV levels. Non-school qualifications may be attained concurrently with school qualifications.

## **Long-term unemployed**

People whose duration of current period unemployment is 12 months or more.

## **Lost a job**

Unemployed people who have worked for two weeks or more in the past two years and who left that job involuntarily.

## **Main difficulty in finding work**

The main difficulty in finding work experienced during the current period of unemployment.

## **Main English-speaking countries**

The list of main English-speaking countries provided here is not an attempt to classify countries on the basis of whether or not English is the predominant or official language of each country. It is a list of the main countries from which Australia receives, or has received, significant numbers of overseas settlers who are likely to speak English. These countries comprise the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa and the United States of America.

## **Main job**

The job in which most hours are usually worked.

## **Mean duration of current period of unemployment**

The duration obtained by dividing the aggregate number of weeks a group has been unemployed by the number of people in that group.

## **Median duration of current period of unemployment**

The duration which divides unemployed people into two groups of equal size, one comprising people whose duration of unemployment is above the mid point, and the other, people whose duration is below it.

## **Number of offers of employment**

The number of separate offers of employment received during the current period of unemployment.

## **Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months**

The number of times people reported being out of work and looking for a job during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

## **Occupation**

An occupation is a collection of jobs that are sufficiently similar in their title and tasks, skill level and skill specialisation which are grouped together for the purposes of classification. In this publication occupation refers to Major Group as defined by [ANZSCO - Australian Standard Classification of Occupations, First Edition, Revision 1](#) (cat. no. 1220.0).

## **Own account workers**

People who operate their own unincorporated economic enterprise or engaged independently in a profession or trade, and hired no employees.

## **Owner managers**

People who work in their own business, with or without employees, whether or not the business is an incorporated enterprise. Comprises owner managers of incorporated enterprises and owner managers of unincorporated enterprises.

### **Owner managers of incorporated enterprises (OMIE)**

People who work in their own incorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity which is registered as a separate legal entity to its members or owners (also known as a limited liability company). These people are classified as employees under 'status in employment'.

### **Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises**

People who operate their own unincorporated enterprise, that is, a business entity in which the owner and the business are legally inseparable, so that the owner is liable for any business debts that are incurred. Includes those engaged independently in a trade or profession. These people are classified as employers under 'status in employment' if their business has employees, or own account worker if they do not.

## **Part-time workers**

Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs) and who either did so during the reference week, or were not at work in the reference week.

## **Preferred number of hours**

The number of hours unemployed people would like to work each week.

## **Status in employment**

Employed people classified by whether they were employees, employers, own account workers or contributing family workers.

## **Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months**

The total number of weeks a person has been both out of work and looking for work at the same time during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week.

## **Unemployed**

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up to the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

A small number of people identified as unemployed in the LFS are out of scope for this

supplementary survey because they reported that they did not look for work.

### **Unemployed looking for full-time work**

Unemployed people who:

- actively looked for full-time work and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new full-time job.

### **Unemployed looking for part-time work**

Unemployed people who:

- actively looked for part-time work only and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were not available for work in the reference week because they were waiting to start a new part-time job.

### **Usually worked full-time hours**

Employed people who usually worked 35 hours or more a week (in all jobs).

### **Usually worked part-time hours**

Employed people who usually worked less than 35 hours a week (in all jobs).

### **Whether had prior knowledge that job was available**

Whether employed people knew that a job was available with their current employer before making an approach to that employer for a job.

### **Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more**

Whether unemployed people had previously held a job lasting two weeks or more.

### **Whether out of work prior to starting job**

Whether employed people were not employed immediately prior to starting their current job.

### **Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked**

Whether employed people who usually worked part-time hours, preferred to work more hours.

### **With paid leave entitlements**

The entitlement of employees (excluding OMIEs) to either paid holiday leave or paid sick leave (or both) in their current job. People employed in their own business or who were contributing family workers were not asked questions about paid leave entitlements. For more information, see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes.

### **Without paid leave entitlements**

Employees (excluding OMIEs) who were not entitled to, or did not know whether they were entitled to, paid holiday leave and paid sick leave in their current job. For more information, see paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Notes.

## Abbreviations

### ABBREVIATIONS

'000	thousand
ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ABSCQ	Australian Bureau of Statistics Classification of Qualifications
ANZSCO	Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations
ANZSIC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification
ASCED	Australian Standard Classification of Education
LFS	Labour Force Survey
n.f.d.	not further defined
OMIE	owner manager of incorporated enterprise
RSE	relative standard error
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SE	standard error
wks	weeks

## Classification of education (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 1 CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

#### CLASSIFICATION OF EDUCATION

In 2001, the ABS Classification of Qualifications (ABSCQ) (cat. no. 1262.0) was replaced by the Australian Standard Classification of Education (ASCED) (cat. no. 1272.0). The ASCED is a national standard classification which can be applied to all sectors of the Australian education system including schools, vocational education and training and higher education. ASCED replaces a number of classifications previously used in administrative and statistical systems, including the ABSCQ. The ASCED comprises two classifications: Level of Education and Field of Education.

Level of Highest Educational Attainment can be derived from information on Highest Year of School Completed and Level of Highest Non-school Qualification. The derivation process determines which of the 'non-school' or 'school' attainments will be regarded as the highest. Usually the higher ranking attainment will be self-evident, but in some cases some Secondary Education is regarded, for the purposes of obtaining a single measure, as higher than some Certificate level attainments.

The following decision table is used to determine which of the responses to questions on Highest Year of School Completed (coded to ASCED Broad Level 6) and Level of Highest

Non-school Qualification (coded to ASCED Broad Level 5) will be regarded as the highest. It is emphasised that this table was designed for the purpose of obtaining a single value for the output variable Level of Highest Educational Attainment and is not intended to convey any other ordinality.

Decision Table: Level of Highest Educational Attainment							
ASCED LEVEL OF EDUCATION CODES	Certificate n.f.d. (500)	Certificate III or IV n.f.d. (510)	Certificate IV (511)	Certificate III (514)	Certificate I or II n.f.d. (520)	Certificate II (521)	Certificate I (524)
Secondary Education n.f.d. (600)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Senior Secondary Education n.f.d. (610)	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.	Senior Secondary n.f.d.
Year 12 (611)	Year 12	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 12	Year 12	Year 12
Year 11 (613)	Year 11	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 11	Year 11	Year 11
Junior Secondary Education n.f.d. (620)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 10 (621)	Year 10	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Year 10	Certificate II	Year 10
Year 9 (622)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 8 (623)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I
Year 7 (624)	Certificate n.f.d.	Certificate III or IV n.f.d.	Certificate IV	Certificate III	Certificate I or II n.f.d.	Certificate II	Certificate I

The decision table is also used to rank the information provided in a survey about the qualifications and attainments of a single individual. It does not represent any basis for comparison between differing qualifications. For example, a person whose Highest Year of School Completed was Year 12, and whose Level of Highest Non-school Qualification was a Certificate III, would have those responses crosschecked on the decision table and would as a result have their Level of Highest Educational Attainment output as Certificate III. However, if the same person answered 'Certificate' to the highest non-school qualification question, without offering any further detail, it would be crosschecked against Year 12 on the decision table as 'Certificate not further defined'. The output would then be 'Year 12'. The decision table, therefore, does not necessarily imply that one qualification is 'higher' than the other.

## Populations and Data Items list (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 2 POPULATIONS AND DATA ITEMS LIST

#### DATA AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

The ABS has a range of data available on request from the Job Search Experience Survey.

This section lists the data items and populations which relate to the survey. More detailed breakdowns of some data items are also available on request.

The population(s) for a particular data item refers to the people in the survey to whom the data relates. Where alternative output categories are available for the same data item, these are shown and the data item name is followed by a bracketed numeral (e.g. Country of birth (2)).

For more information about ABS data available on request, contact Client Services Section in Canberra on (02) 6252 7400, or via email to <[information.consultancy@abs.gov.au](mailto:information.consultancy@abs.gov.au)>.

## **Population 1**

Unemployed persons.

## **Population 2**

Employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

## **Population 3**

Employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprises) who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

<b>Data items</b>	<b>Populations</b>
1 State or territory of usual residence	All
New South Wales	
Victoria	
Queensland	
South Australia	
Western Australia	
Tasmania	
Northern Territory	
Australian Capital Territory	
2 Area of usual residence	All
State capital city	
Balance of state/territory	
3 Region of usual residence	All
Standard labour force dissemination regions	
4 Sex	All
Males	
Females	
5 Marital status	All
Married	
Not married	
6 Relationship in household	All
Family member	
Husband, wife or partner	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Lone parent	
With dependants	
Without dependants	
Dependent student	
Non-dependent child	
Other family person	
Non-family member	

	Lone person Not living alone Relationship not determined	
7A	Country of birth and period of arrival	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Arrived before 1971	
	Arrived 1971-1980	
	Arrived 1981-1990	
	Arrived 1991-2000	
	Arrived 2001 to survey date	
7B	Country of birth (1)	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Born in main English-speaking countries	
	Born in other than main English-speaking countries	
7C	Country of birth (2)	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	Oceania and Antarctica	
	North-West Europe	
	Southern and Eastern Europe	
	North Africa and the Middle East	
	South-East Asia	
	North-East Asia	
	Southern and Central Asia	
	Americas	
	Sub-Saharan Africa	
8	Age group (years)	All
	15-19	
	20-24	
	25-34	
	35-44	
	45-54	
	55-59	
	60-64	
	65 and over	
	Note: Age collected in single years.	
9	Number of children in family aged under 15 years	All
	Had children under 15 years	
	1 child	
	2 children	
	3 children	
	4 children	
	5 children	
	6 or more children	
	Did not have children under 15 years	
10	Level of highest educational attainment	All
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	
	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10 or below	
	Other education	
	Level not determined	
	No educational attainment	
11	Level of highest non-school qualification	All
	With a non-school qualification	
	Postgraduate Degree	
	Graduate Diploma/Graduate Certificate	
	Bachelor Degree	

	Advanced Diploma/Diploma	
	Certificate III/IV	
	Certificate I/II	
	Certificate not further defined	
	Level not determined	
	Without a non-school qualification	
12	Highest year of school completed	All
	Year 12	
	Year 11	
	Year 10	
	Year 9	
	Year 8 or below	
	Never attended school	
13	Highest non-school qualification and whether qualification obtained overseas or within Australia	All
	Born in Australia	
	Born overseas	
	With a non-school qualification	
	Qualification obtained overseas	
	Qualification obtained in Australia	
	Without a non-school qualification	
14A	Number of jobs started in the previous 12 months	All
	None	
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
14B	Number of jobs lasting two weeks or more started in the previous 12 months	All
	None	
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
15	All steps taken to find work/attain a job	1,3
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
	Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	
	Contacted friends or relatives	
	Advertised or tendered for work	
	Registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Registered with other employment agency	
	Checked with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Checked with other employment agency	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	
	Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
	Other	
	Did not take steps to find work/attain a job	
	Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
16	Whether looked for full-time or part-time work	1
	Looked for full-time work	
	Looked for part-time work	
17	Preferred number of hours	1
	1-15	
	16-29	
	30-34	
	35-39	
	40	
	41-44	
	45-48	
	49 or more	

	Did not know	
	Note: Collected in single hours.	
18	Duration of current period of unemployment	1
	Under 1 year	
	1 and under 4 weeks	
	4 and under 8 weeks	
	8 and under 13 weeks	
	13 and under 26 weeks	
	26 and under 39 weeks	
	39 and under 52 weeks	
	1 year and over	
	1 and under 2 years	
	2 years and over	
19	Whether has been registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	1
	Has been registered with centrelink as a job seeker	
	Has not been registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
20A	All steps taken to find work	1
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
	Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	
	Contacted friends or relatives	
	Advertised or tendered for work	
	Registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Registered with other employment agency	
	Checked with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Checked with other employment agency	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet	
	Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards	
	Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
	Other	
	Did not take steps to find work	
	Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
20B	Active steps taken to find work	1
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
	Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	
	Contacted friends or relatives	
	Advertised or tendered for work	
	Registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Registered with other employment agency	
	Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker	
	Took no active steps	
	Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
20C	Active steps taken to find work and whether has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	1
	Has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work	
	Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet	
	Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards	
	Contacted friends or relatives	

	Advertised or tendered for work	
	Took no active steps	
	Has not been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
20D	Whether has been registered with a Job Network employment agency	1
	Has been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
	Has not been registered with a Job Services Australia provider	
21	Number of offers of employment in the current period of unemployment	1
	None	
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
22A	All difficulties in finding work	1
	Too many applicants for available jobs	
	Lacked necessary skills or education	
	Considered too young by employers	
	Considered too old by employers	
	Insufficient work experience	
	No vacancies at all	
	No vacancies in line of work	
	Too far to travel/transport problems	
	Own ill health or disability	
	Language difficulties	
	Unsuitable hours	
	Difficulties with finding child care	
	Other family responsibilities	
	Difficulties because of ethnic background	
	Other difficulties	
	No difficulties at all	
	No feedback from employers	
	Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.	
22B	Main difficulty in finding work	1
	Too many applicants for available jobs	
	Lacked necessary skills or education	
	Considered too young by employers	
	Considered too old by employers	
	Insufficient work experience	
	No vacancies at all	
	No vacancies in line of work	
	Too far to travel/transport problems	
	Own ill health or disability	
	Language difficulties	
	Unsuitable hours	
	Difficulties with finding child care	
	Other family responsibilities	
	Difficulties because of ethnic background	
	No feedback from employers	
	Other difficulties	
	No difficulties at all	
23	Number of spells of looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
	One	
	Two	
	Three or more	
24	Time spent looking for work in the previous 12 months	1
	1 and under 2 weeks	
	2 and under 4 weeks	
	4 and under 8 weeks	
	8 and under 13 weeks	
	13 and under 26 weeks	

26 and under 39 weeks	
39 and under 52 weeks	
52 weeks	
25 Whether had ever worked for two weeks or more	1
Had previously worked	
Last job less than 2 years ago	
Last job 2 years or more ago	
Had never worked	
26 Status in employment of last job	1
Last job less than 2 years ago	
Employee (including OMIE)	
Employer	
Own account worker	
Contributing family worker	
Unpaid voluntary worker	
Last job 2 or more years ago	
Had never worked	
27 Occupation of last job	1
Last job less than 2 years ago	
Managers	
Professionals	
Technicians and trades workers	
Community and personal service workers	
Clerical and administrative workers	
Sales workers	
Machinery operators and drivers	
Labourers	
Unpaid voluntary workers	
Last job 2 or more years ago	
Had never worked	
28 Industry of last job	1
Last job less than 2 years ago	
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	
Mining	
Manufacturing	
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	
Construction	
Wholesale trade	
Retail trade	
Accommodation and food services	
Transport, postal and warehousing	
Information media and telecommunications	
Financial and insurance services	
Rental, hiring and real estate services	
Professional, scientific and technical services	
Administrative and support services	
Public administration and safety	
Education and training	
Health care and social assistance	
Arts and recreation services	
Other services	
Last job 2 or more years ago	
Had never worked	
29 Whether worked full-time or part-time in last job	1
Worked full-time	
Worked part-time	
Had never worked	
30 Duration of last job	1
Last job less than 2 years ago	
Less than 1 year	
2 and under 4 weeks	
4 and under 8 weeks	
8 and under 26 weeks	
26 and under 52 weeks	
1 and under 2 years	
2 and under 5 years	

	5 years and over	
	Last job 2 or more years ago	
	Unpaid voluntary worker	
	Had never worked	
31	Reason for ceasing last job	1
	Last job less than 2 years ago	
	Lost a job	
	Laid off or retrenched	
	Job was temporary or seasonal	
	Own ill health or disability	
	Own business closed down for economic reasons	
	Left a job	
	Unsatisfactory work arrangements	
	Holiday job/returned to studies	
	Other	
	Unpaid voluntary worker	
	Last job 2 or more years ago	
	Had never worked	
32	Whether had job to go to lasting two weeks or more	1
	Had a job to go to	
	Did not have a job to go to	
33	Status in employment in current job	2
	Employees (including OMIEs)	
	Employers	
	Own account workers	
	Contributing family workers	
34	Employment type in main job	2,3
	Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
	Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
	Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
	Contributing family workers	
35	Employment type in current job	2,3
	Employees (excluding OMIEs)	
	With paid leave entitlements	
	Without paid leave entitlements	
	Owner managers of incorporated enterprises	
	Owner managers of unincorporated enterprises	
	Contributing family workers	
36	Month started current job	2,3
	July 2009	
	August 2009	
	September 2009	
	October 2009	
	November 2009	
	December 2009	
	January 2010	
	February 2010	
	March 2010	
	April 2010	
	May 2010	
	June 2010	
	July 2010	
37	Duration of looking for work before current job	2,3
	Less than 1 year	
	1 and under 4 weeks	
	4 and under 8 weeks	
	8 and under 13 weeks	
	13 and under 26 weeks	
	26 and under 52 weeks	
	1 and under 2 years	
	2 and under 5 years	
	5 years and over	
	Did not look for work	
	Note: Available in single weeks/years.	
38	Occupation of current job	2,3
	Managers	

Professionals		
Associate professionals		
Technicians and trades workers		
Community and personal service workers		
Clerical and administrative workers		
Sales workers		
Machinery operators and drivers		
Labourers		
39 Full-time or part-time status of current employment	2,3	
Full-time worker		
Part-time worker		
40 Whether preferred to work more hours than usually worked	2,3	
Usually worked part-time hours		
Preferred to work more hours		
Did not prefer to work more hours		
Did not know		
Usually worked full-time hours		
41 Whether had paid leave entitlements in current job	3	
With paid leave entitlements		
Without paid leave entitlements		
42 Whether entitled to paid sick leave in current job	3	
Entitled to paid sick leave		
Not entitled to paid sick leave		
Did not know		
43 Whether entitled to paid holiday leave in current job	3	
Entitled to paid holiday leave		
Not entitled to paid holiday leave		
Did not know		
44 Whether first job ever held lasting two weeks or more	3	
First job ever held		
Had worked before		
Out of work prior to starting job		
Changed employer to start job		
45 All steps taken to attain a job	3	
Wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer for work		
Answered an advertisement for a job in a newspaper		
Answered an advertisement for a job on the Internet		
Answered an advertisement for a job on workplace noticeboards		
Contacted friends or relatives		
Advertised or tendered for work		
Registered with a Job Services Australia provider		
Registered with other employment agency		
Checked with a Job Services Australia provider		
Checked with other employment agency		
Looked at advertisements for jobs in a newspaper		
Looked at advertisements for jobs on the Internet		
Looked at advertisements for jobs on workplace noticeboards		
Registered with Centrelink as a job seeker		
Other		
Did not take steps to attain a job		
Note: Multiple response category. People may appear in more than one category.		
46 Whether job seeker approached employer	3	
Job seeker approached employer		
Employer approached job seeker		
47 Whether had prior knowledge that current job was available	3	
Had prior knowledge that job or work was available		
Job Services Australia provider		
Other employment agency		
School programs		
Careers service at educational institution		
Advertisements in a newspaper		
Advertisements on the Internet		
Advertisements on workplace noticeboards		
Friends, relatives or company contacts		
Other sources		

	Did not have prior knowledge that job was available	
48	Role of Job Services Australia in job attainment	3
	Job Services Australia helped job seeker to obtain job in some way	
	Job Services Australia did not help job seeker to obtain job in any way	
	Did not know	
	Did not use Job Services Australia in job attainment	

---

## Supplementary Surveys (Appendix)

### APPENDIX 3 SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

#### SUPPLEMENTARY SURVEYS

The Monthly Population Survey program and Multi-Purpose Household Survey program collect data on particular aspects of the labour force. The following is an historical list of labour surveys collected in these programs. Data from these surveys are available on request and can be obtained by contacting the ABS.

		cat. no.	Frequency	Latest issue
<b>Monthly Population Supplementary Surveys</b>				
Childhood Education and Care, Australia		4402.0	Irregular	June 2008
Child Employment, Australia		6211.0	Irregular	June 2006
Education and Work, Australia		6227.0	Annual	May 2010
Employee Earnings, Benefits, and Trade Union Membership, Australia		6310.0	Annual	August 2009
Forms of Employment, Australia		6359.0	Annual	November 2009
Job Search Experience, Australia		6222.0	Annual	July 2010
Labour Force Experience, Australia		6206.0	Biennial	February 2009
Labour Force Status and Other Characteristics of Migrants, Australia		6250.0	Irregular	November 2007
Labour Mobility, Australia		6209.0	Biennial	February 2010
Locations of Work, Australia		6275.0	Irregular	November 2008
Multiple Jobholding, Australia(a)		6216.0	Irregular	August 1997
Persons Not in the Labour Force, Australia		6220.0	Annual	September 2009
Underemployed Workers, Australia		6265.0	Annual	September 2009
Working Time Arrangements, Australia(b)		6342.0	Irregular	November 2009
<b>Multi-Purpose Household Surveys</b>				
Barriers and Incentives to Labour Force Participation, Australia		6239.0	Biennial	2008-2009
Retirement and Retirement Intentions, Australia		6238.0	Biennial	2008-2009
Work-Related Injuries, Australia		6324.0	Irregular	2009-2010

(a) Latest data available on request July 2001.

(b) This product replaces the publication Working Arrangements, Australia (cat. no 6342.0).

## Quality Declaration - Summary

## **QUALITY DECLARATION - SUMMARY**

### **INSTITUTIONAL ENVIRONMENT**

For information on the institutional environment of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), including the legislative obligations of the ABS, financing and governance arrangements, and mechanisms for scrutiny of ABS operations, please see ABS Institutional Environment.

### **RELEVANCE**

The Job Search Experience Survey is the primary ABS data source about the experiences of unemployed people in seeking work, and information on employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months. It provides a comprehensive view of the nature and extent of unemployment, the problems unemployed people face in finding a job, and the different steps taken to find a job. For more information on the content and design of the survey refer to Quality Declaration - Relevance.

The Job Search Experience Survey collects information on two mutually exclusive groups in the labour force aged 15 years and over as at July:

- unemployed persons
- employed persons who started their current job in the previous 12 months.

The Job Search Experience Survey is conducted annually as a supplement to the monthly Labour Force Survey. The main product from the survey is the publication, Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0).

### **TIMELINESS**

The publication is released approximately six months after the completion of enumeration in July. The Job Search Experience Survey is expected to be conducted again in July 2011.

### **ACCURACY**

Estimates from the Job Search Experience Survey, including those presented in the publication, are subject to sampling and non-sampling errors.

The Job Search Experience Survey was designed primarily to provide estimates at the Australia level. Broad estimates are available for state/territory and capital city/balance, though users should exercise caution when using estimates at this level because of the presence of high sampling errors. Relative standard errors for all estimates in the publication are available in table T2 in the Technical Note of the publication.

The LFS sample size in July 2010 was approximately 32% higher than the sample size in July 2009. This was due to the re-instatement of the sample that had been cut from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) and supplementary surveys in July 2008. Detailed

information about the sample reduction and re-instatement is provided in Information Paper: Labour Force Survey Sample Design, Nov 2007 (third edition) (cat. no. 6269.0). The re-instated sample will still be representative, with selections made across all parts of Australia.

## COHERENCE

The conceptual framework presented in the publication is described in more detail in Chapters 3 and 6 of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001). The statistics from this survey are comparable with other labour statistics produced by the ABS.

The ABS has been conducting the Job Search Experience Survey annually in its current form since 2002. Results of previous surveys on the job search experience of unemployed people conducted in July 1984, July 1985, June 1986, July 1988, July 1990, June 1991 and annually from July 1992 to July 2001 were published in various issues of Job Search Experience of Unemployed Persons, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0). Information on people who had started work for an employer for wages or salary during the 12 months up to the end of the reference week was collected in June 1986, and two-yearly from July 1990 to July 2000 and were published in Successful and Unsuccessful Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6245.0).

Key changes made to the collection methodology of the Job Search Experience Survey since 2002 are reflected in relevant publications. For more information on changes to the survey see Chapter 21.4 of Labour Statistics: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 6102.0.55.001).

## INTERPRETABILITY

Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) contains tables with footnoted data and a Summary of Findings to aid interpretation of the results of the survey. Detailed Explanatory Notes, a Technical Note and a Glossary are also included providing information on the terminology, classifications and other technical aspects associated with these statistics.

Further commentary is often available through articles and data published in other ABS products, including:

- Australian Labour Market Statistics (cat. no. 6105.0) - refer to Appendix 2 for past articles.
- Australian Social Trends (cat. no. 4102.0) - refer to the 'Article archive'.
- Year Book, Australia (cat. no. 1301.0) - refer to the 'Labour' chapter.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Job Search Experience, Australia (cat. no. 6222.0) is released electronically via the ABS website as a PDF publication. Additional data may be available on request (subject to data quality). For a list of data items available see Appendix 2 of the publication. Note that detailed data can be subject to high relative standard errors, and

in some cases, may result in data being confidentialised.

For further information about these or related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Centre on 1300 135 070 or the Labour Market Statistics Section in Canberra on (02) 6252 6552.

## Quality Declaration - Relevance

### CONTENT AND DESIGN

This publication provides presents detailed information about unemployed people, including steps they have taken to find work, whether they looked for full-time or part-time work and the difficulties they have encountered in finding work. It also presents information about employed people who started their current job in the previous 12 months, such as steps taken to attain work and current job details, including occupation and full-time or part-time status of employment. Demographic information is provided for both of these groups, including state/territory of usual residence, age, sex, country of birth and level of highest non-school qualification. Information regarding employees (excluding owner managers of incorporated enterprise) is also presented in individual tables.

The survey design information relevant to the Labour Force Survey also applies to the Job Search Experience Survey and other supplementary surveys, with some exceptions for special dwellings. It includes people in both urban and rural areas (excluding very-remote areas) in all states and territories. Refer to the Explanatory Notes of the publication for more information.

### UNEMPLOYED

People aged 15 years and over who were not employed during the reference week, and:

- had actively looked for full-time or part-time work at any time in the four weeks up the end of the reference week and were available for work in the reference week; or
- were waiting to start a new job within four weeks from the end of the reference week, and could have started in the reference week if the job had been available then.

### EMPLOYED PERSONS

People aged 15 years and over who, during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay, profit, commission or payment in kind, in a job or business or on a farm (comprising employees, employers and own account workers); or
- worked for one hour or more without pay in a family business or on a farm (i.e. contributing family workers); or
- were employees who had a job but were not at work and were:
  - away from work for less than four weeks up to the end of the reference week; or

- away from work for more than four weeks up to the end of the reference week and received pay for some or all of the four-week period to the end of the reference week; or
  - away from work as a standard work or shift arrangement; or
  - on strike or locked out; or
  - on workers' compensation and expected to return to their job; or
- were employers or own account workers who had a job, business or farm, but were not at work.

## Quality Declaration - Coherence

Key changes made to the collection methodology of the Job Search Experience Survey since 2004 include:

- Revisions were made to population benchmarks for the Labour Force Survey and supplementary surveys in 2004 to take account of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Estimates from supplementary surveys conducted from and including February 2004 are based on the revised benchmarks.
- In July 2004, computer assisted interviewing was introduced for the Job Search Experience Survey, and was fully implemented in July 2005. The change of interviewing method is not expected to have affected estimates in any meaningful way.
- From 2006, occupation data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation, First Edition, 2006 (cat. no. 1220.0).
- From 2006, industry data are classified according to the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC), 2006 (cat. no. 1292.0).
- In 2008 Population 3 was introduced, 'Employees (excluding OMIEs) who started their current job in the previous 12 months'.

## Data quality (Technical Note)

### TECHNICAL NOTE DATA QUALITY

#### INTRODUCTION

**1** Since the estimates in this publication are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings, they are subject to sampling variability. That is, they may differ from those estimates that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the standard error (SE), which indicates the extent to which an estimate might have varied by chance because only a sample of dwellings was included. There are about two chances in three (67%) that a sample estimate will differ by less than one SE from the number that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included, and about 19 chances in 20 (95%) that the difference will be less than two SEs. Another measure of the likely difference is the relative standard error (RSE), which is obtained by expressing the SE as a percentage of the estimate.

**2** Due to space limitations, it is impractical to print the SE of each estimate in the publication.

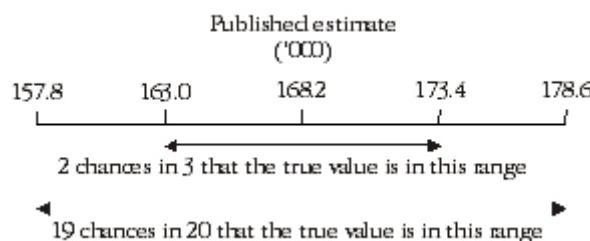
Instead, a table of SEs is provided to enable readers to determine the SE for an estimate from the size of that estimate (see table T1). The SE table is derived from a mathematical model, referred to as the 'SE model', which is created using data from a number of past Labour Force Surveys. It should be noted that the SE model only gives an approximate value for the SE for any particular estimate, since there is some minor variation between SEs for different estimates of the same size.

## CALCULATION OF STANDARD ERROR

**3** An example of the calculation and the use of SEs in relation to estimates of persons is as follows. Table 4 shows the estimated number of unemployed women in Australia who were looking for full-time work was 168,200. Since this estimate is between 150,000 and 200,000, table T1 shows that the SE for Australia will lie between 5,000 and 5,600 and can be approximated by interpolation using the following general formula:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \text{SE of estimate} \\
 & = \text{lower SE} + \left( \left( \frac{\text{size of estimate} - \text{lower estimate}}{\text{upper estimate} - \text{lower estimate}} \right) \times (\text{upper SE} - \text{lower SE}) \right) \\
 & = 5,000 + \left( \left( \frac{168,200 - 150,000}{200,000 - 150,000} \right) \times (5,600 - 5,000) \right) \\
 & = 5,200 \text{ (rounded to the nearest 100)}
 \end{aligned}$$

**4** Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the value that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey will fall within the range 163,000 to 173,400 and about 19 chances in 20 that the value will fall within the range 157,800 to 178,600. This example is illustrated in the diagram below.



**5** In general, the size of the SE increases as the size of the estimate increases. Conversely, the RSE decreases as the size of the estimate increases. Very small estimates are thus subject to such high RSEs that their value for most practical purposes is unreliable. In the tables in this publication, only estimates with RSEs of 25% or less are considered reliable for most purposes. Estimates with RSEs greater than 25% but less than or equal to 50% are preceded by an asterisk (e.g. \*3.4) to indicate they are subject to high SEs and should be used with caution. Estimates with RSEs of greater than 50%, preceded by a double asterisk (e.g. \*\*0.2), are considered too unreliable for general use and should only be used to aggregate with other estimates to provide derived estimates with RSEs of less than 25%. Table T2 presents the levels at which estimates have RSEs of 25% and 50%.

## MEANS AND MEDIANs

**6** The RSEs of estimates of mean duration of unemployment and median duration of unemployment are obtained by first finding the RSE of the estimate of the total number of persons contributing to the mean or median (see table T1) and then multiplying the resulting number by the following factors for Australian estimates:

- mean duration of unemployment: 1.6
- median duration of unemployment: 2.5

**7** The following is an example of the calculation of SEs where the use of a factor is required. Table 4 shows that the estimated median duration of unemployment for unemployed women in Australia was 12 weeks and shows that the number of unemployed women was estimated as 271,500. The SE of 271,500 can be calculated from table T1 (by interpolation) as 6,400. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate or  $6,400/271,500 = 2.4\%$ .

**8** The RSE of the estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed women is calculated by multiplying this number (2.4%) by the appropriate factor shown in the previous paragraph (in this case 2.5):  $2.4 \times 2.5 = 6\%$ . The SE of this estimate of median duration of unemployment for unemployed women is therefore 6% of 12 weeks, i.e. almost one week. Therefore, there are two chances in three that the median duration of unemployment for women that would have been obtained if all dwellings had been included in the survey would have been within the range 11 to 13 weeks and about 19 chances in 20 that it would have been within the range 10 weeks to 14 weeks.

**9** Table T2 represents the minimum size of estimates, based on the SE model described in paragraph 2, required to have RSEs of less than 25% and 50% respectively. For example, an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 29,000 people will have an RSE of at least 25%, and an estimate of median duration of unemployment for Australia based on less than 10,000 will have an RSE of at least 50%. For all other estimates, (i.e. those estimates based purely on number of people in a specific category), an estimate of less than 6,800 for the Australian total will have an RSE of at least 25% and an estimate of less than 1,600 will have an RSE of at least 50%.

## PROPORTIONS AND PERCENTAGES

**10** Proportions and percentages formed from the ratio of two estimates are also subject to sampling errors. The size of the error depends on the accuracy of both the numerator and the denominator. A formula to approximate the RSE of a proportion is given below. This formula is only valid when x is a subset of y:

$$RSE\left(\frac{x}{y}\right) = \sqrt{[RSE(x)]^2 - [RSE(y)]^2}$$

**11** Considering the example from the previous page, of the 168,200 unemployed women who were looking for full-time work, 34,800 or 20.7% had been unemployed for one year or more. The SE of 34,800 may be calculated by interpolation as 3,000. To convert this to an RSE we express the SE as a percentage of the estimate, or  $3,000/34,800 = 8.6\%$ . The SE for 168,200 was calculated previously as 5,200, which converted to an RSE is  $5,200/168,200 = 3.1\%$ . Applying the above formula, the RSE of the proportion is:

$$RSE = \sqrt{(8.6)^2 - (3.1)^2} = 8.0\%$$

**12** Therefore, the SE for the proportion of unemployed women looking for full-time work who had been unemployed for one year or more is 1.7 percentage points ( $= (20.7/100) \times 8.0$ ). Therefore, there are about two chances in three that the proportion of unemployed women looking for full-time work who have been unemployed for one year or more is between 19.0% and 22.4% and 19 chances in 20 that the proportion is within the range 17.3% to 24.1%.

## DIFFERENCES

**13** Published estimates may also be used to calculate the difference between two survey estimates (of numbers or percentages). Such an estimate is subject to sampling error. The sampling error of the difference between two estimates depends on their SEs and the relationship (correlation) between them. An approximate SE of the difference between two estimates ( $x-y$ ) may be calculated by the following formula:

$$SE(x-y) = \sqrt{[SE(x)]^2 + [SE(y)]^2}$$

**14** While this formula will only be exact for differences between separate and uncorrelated characteristics or subpopulations, it is expected to provide a good approximation for all differences likely to be of interest in this publication.

## STANDARD ERRORS

**T1 standard errors of estimates**

<b>Size of estimate (persons)</b>	<b>NSW</b> No.	<b>Vic.</b> No.	<b>Qld.</b> No.	<b>SA</b> No.	<b>WA</b> No.	<b>Tas.</b> No.	<b>NT</b> No.	<b>ACT</b> No.	<b>Aust.</b> No.	<b>%</b>
100	290	290	220	180	220	110	80	100	110	10.0
200	400	380	320	240	290	160	120	170	190	95.0
300	470	440	390	280	340	190	150	210	260	86.7
500	580	540	500	340	420	240	200	270	380	76.0
700	660	620	580	390	480	270	230	300	480	68.6
1,000	760	710	680	450	550	310	270	330	610	61.0
1,500	900	830	810	530	640	360	310	360	780	52.0
2,000	1 010	930	910	590	710	390	350	390	920	46.0
2,500	1 100	1 000	1 000	650	800	400	350	400	1 050	42.0
3,000	1 200	1 100	1 050	700	850	450	400	450	1 150	38.3
3,500	1 250	1 150	1 100	700	900	450	400	450	1 250	35.7
4,000	1 300	1 200	1 200	750	900	500	450	450	1 350	33.8
5,000	1 450	1 300	1 250	800	1 000	500	500	500	1 500	30.0
7,000	1 650	1 500	1 450	900	1 150	600	550	600	1 700	24.3
10,000	1 850	1 700	1 600	1 050	1 300	700	750	700	2 000	20.0
15,000	2 150	1 950	1 800	1 200	1 500	850	1 000	850	2 350	15.7
20,000	2 400	2 200	1 950	1 350	1 650	1 000	1 300	1 000	2 550	12.8
30,000	2 800	2 550	2 250	1 550	1 900	1 250	1 800	1 250	2 900	9.7
40,000	3 100	2 800	2 500	1 800	2 100	1 500	2 250	1 500	3 150	7.9
50,000	3 350	3 050	2 750	2 000	2 300	1 700	2 700	1 650	3 400	6.8
100,000	4 250	4 000	3 750	3 000	3 400	2 400	4 700	2 250	4 300	4.3
150,000	5 000	4 850	4 600	3 850	4 450	2 850	6 450	2 500	5 000	3.3
200,000	5 750	5 650	5 400	4 550	5 350	3 200	8 050	2 650	5 600	2.8
300,000	7 250	7 250	6 850	5 550	6 750	3 700	10 950	2 800	6 650	2.2
500,000	10 150	10 050	9 250	7 000	8 600	4 250	..	2 800	8 350	1.7
1,000,000	15 100	15 250	13 200	8 900	10 950	4 850	..	..	11 750	1.2
2,000,000	20 350	22 550	17 700	10 600	12 700	..	..	..	17 050	0.9
5,000,000	25 900	36 100	23 900	11 900	13 250	..	..	..	28 450	0.6
10,000,000	27 750	49 750	27 950	..	..	..	..	..	37 950	0.4
15,000,000	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42 850	0.3

.. not applicable

**T2 Levels at which estimates have Relative Standard Errors of 25% and 50%(a)**

	<b>NSW</b> no.	<b>Vic.</b> no.	<b>Qld.</b> no.	<b>SA</b> no.	<b>WA</b> no.	<b>Tas.</b> no.	<b>NT</b> no.	<b>ACT</b> no.	<b>Aust.</b> no.
--	-------------------	--------------------	--------------------	------------------	------------------	--------------------	------------------	-------------------	---------------------

	25% RSE									
	11 200	9 500	8 600	4 400	6 200	2 300	1 600	2 400	14 700	
Mean duration of unemployment	11 200	9 500	8 600	4 400	6 200	2 300	1 600	2 400	14 700	
Median duration of unemployment	29 800	25 700	22 600	12 100	18 100	8 100	5 100	6 700	29 000	
All other estimates	6 300	5 400	5 100	2 600	3 500	1 400	1 100	1 400	6 800	

	50% RSE									
	3 700	3 100	3 000	1 500	2 100	800	500	1 000	4 400	
Mean duration of unemployment	3 700	3 100	3 000	1 500	2 100	800	500	1 000	4 400	
Median duration of unemployment	9 900	8 600	8 400	4 100	6 200	2 800	1 700	2 400	10 000	
All other estimates	2 000	1 800	1 700	800	1 200	500	300	600	1 600	

(a) Refers to the number of people contributing to the estimate.

© Commonwealth of Australia

All data and other material produced by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) constitutes Commonwealth copyright administered by the ABS. The ABS reserves the right to set out the terms and conditions for the use of such material. Unless otherwise noted, all material on this website – except the ABS logo, the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, and any material protected by a trade mark – is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia licence